

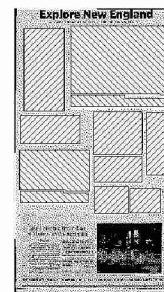
11 places to roam with Rover

By Tom Long
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Admit it. You're the type of person who can't enjoy a trip to the grocery store, never mind a family vacation, without bringing your dog along. How can you lie on the beach guilt-free when you know Buddy is whining for you in some kennel hundreds of miles away?

You are not alone. These days more motels, hotels, and inns in the region take dogs, and more tourist destinations and even summer camps welcome you and yours. They recognize that, for you, vacation time has to be canine time too.

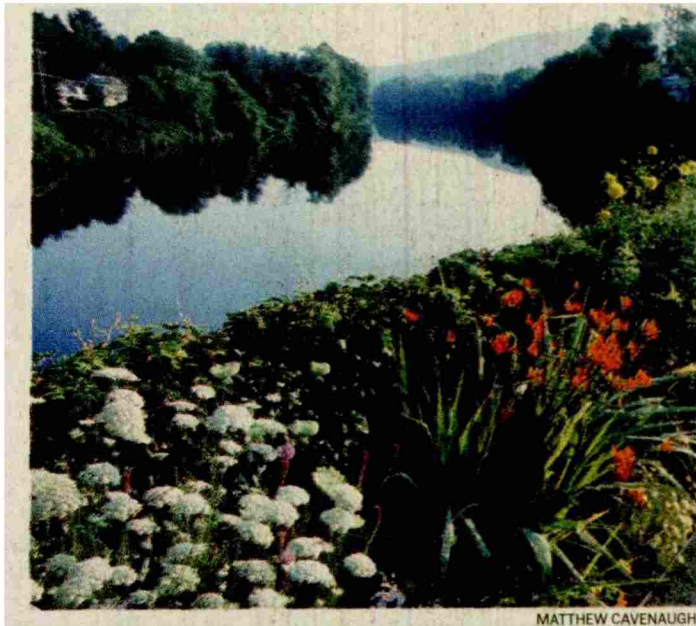
So pack your digital camera and favorite leash and check out some of these getaways.



1. CAMP GONE TO THE DOGS, MARLBORO AND STOWE, VT.

This summer camp geared toward dogs and their masters and mistresses is held in two locations in Vermont over the summer: at Marlboro College in Marlboro and Stowe Camp at the Mountaineer Inn in Stowe. You and your dog train in **verdant** fields with homemade meals and on-site veterinarians. And you get to bunk together.

888-DOG-DAZE (364-3293), campgonetothedogs.com. June 1-7 session \$1,000-\$1,250; Aug. 31-Sept. 6 and Sept. 7-13 sessions each about \$1,500.



2. BRIDGE OF FLOWERS, SHELBURNE FALLS

Even your dog can stop and smell the roses at the Bridge of Flowers. Last year the bridge had 24,000 visitors, many accompanied by four-legged friends. What dog, or person for that matter, wouldn't dig walking over a bridge planted with more than 500 varieties of posies? The Bridge of Flowers was built 100 years ago as a trolley bridge for hauling freight between a rail yard in Shelburne Falls and textile mills in Colrain. But by 1928, freight trains had given way to trucks, and a year later money was raised to turn the bridge into a suspended garden of sorts. To this day it is maintained by volunteers from the Shelburne Falls Women's Club.

16-22 Water St., 413-625-2526, shelburnefalls.com/attractions/bridge. Free; donations accepted.



AMELIA KUNHARDT/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

3. ACADIA NATIONAL PARK, BAR HARBOR, MAINE

Take your dog Down East. According to DogFriendly.com, Acadia is the friendliest national park in the country, with numerous accommodations and outdoor cafes for your canine as well as miles of hiking trails and seashore to be explored.

acadia.national-park.com.



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

4. THE FREEDOM TRAIL, BOSTON

Colonial Williamsburg may have stood in for Beantown in the "John Adams" miniseries on HBO, but there's nothing like the real thing. Stroll with your dog along the 2½-mile red brick trail and visit Faneuil Hall, Old North Church, the Boston Massacre site, and nine other national historic sites. Maps for self-guided tours are available at the information kiosk on Boston Common.

thefreedomtrail.org.

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TOBY TALBOT/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

5. DOG MOUNTAIN GALLERY AND CHAPEL, ST. JOHNSBURY, VT.

Canines and art, a marriage centuries old. Here you see dog-inspired woodcuts, sculpture, furniture, and a children's book by folk artist Stephen Huneck, who owns and operates the gallery and chapel on a 175-acre hillside in the Green Mountain State. After a near-death experience, Huneck was inspired to build a dog chapel from the wood on his property. It has vaulted ceilings and dog-themed stained glass. Visitors are encouraged to post their memories and photos of their late pets on the chapel walls. The lively ones who succeeded them are welcome to frolic on the hilly landscape.

143 Parks Road, 800-449-2580, dogmt.com.

6. WALKING TOURS OF PROVIDENCE

Your dog need not be well bred or have bloodlines dating to kings, but it must be well behaved in order to accompany you on a narrated historical walking tour of Providence. It begins at the John Brown House Museum, part of the Rhode Island Historical Society. Leashing is the law while you both take in the sights and sounds of the capital city.

52 Power St., 401-331-8575, rihs.org. The 90-minute walking tours of the Benefit Street area are conducted June 15-Oct. 15, Tuesday through Saturday at 11 a.m. Adults \$12, seniors and members \$10, children 12 and under \$6. Free parking in RIHS lot.

7. CONWAY SCENIC RAILROAD, NORTH CONWAY, N.H.

So you think your dog is well trained? Take Rover for a ride on the Conway Scenic Railroad where well behaved, leashed dogs are allowed on the three restored passenger cars — coach class only — that travel through the breathtaking Mount Washington Valley and the White Mountains.

Route 16, 800-232-5251, 603-356-5251, conwayscenic.com. Adults \$12.50-\$20, depending on train; children 3 and under and dogs free.

8. MY DOG'S PLACE SUMMER WATER SPORTS CLASSES, LEDYARD, CONN.

Forget about swimming with the fishes. Swim with your dog at a freshwater lake in Ledyard. My Dog's Place, out of Mystic and Niantic, offers a seven-week class for puppies and adult dogs and their owners or handlers. According to the brochure, "building a confident, cooperative water companion is the primary goal of this class." You will learn to swim together as a team and pick up some basic retrieving skills. Basic obedience and leash walking are required. A canine lifejacket is strongly recommended, a human one required.

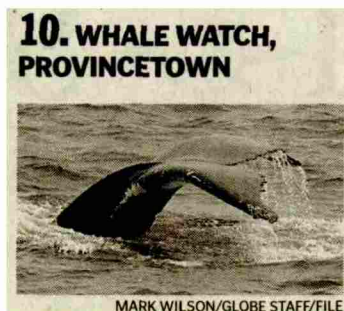
860-572-7755 (Mystic) and 860-691-0078 (Niantic), mydogsplace.com. Seven-week sessions, one in June, one in July, \$140.



9. THE LAZY DOG INN, CHOCORUA, N.H.

You and your faithful guardian deserve a pampered getaway. The Lazy Dog, housed in an 1845 farmhouse, is geared toward dog-loving guests and their pets. There's a climate-controlled Doggie Lodge, a doggie play area, and golden retriever hosts Molly and Meghan. You can find out how to adopt a rescue dog and have your photo taken with your dog. Check out other happy vacationers in the photo album at the inn's web-site.

*201 White Mountain Highway
(Route 16), 888-323-8350 or 603-
323-8350, lazydoginn.com, \$120-
\$190 a night.*



Picture Moby-Dick meets Fido.
You can take your pooch along on
the Dolphin Fleet of Province-
town. Your leashed companion
can join you in experiencing the
awe and wonder of breaching
humpbacks and explosive blow
holes.

*Dolphin Fleet of Provincetown
Whale Watch, 307 Commercial St.,
508-349-1900, 800-826-9300,
whalewatch.com. Adults \$35,
children ages 5-12 \$27, 4 and un-
der and dogs free.*



11. NANTUCKET ISLAND BEACHES

Despite all those movies and ads that show people frolicking on the beach with their black Labs in tow, there aren't that many beaches in New England that allow dogs. Nantucket is an exception. According to Nantucket's beach manager, leashed dogs are allowed on all public beaches with the exception of those with endangered piping plovers and tern colonies, and those beaches are well marked. Dogs are also welcome on most ferries and on shuttle buses to and from the beach as long as they are leashed, well behaved, dry, and not up on the seats. According to a spokeswoman at the Nantucket Regional Transit Authority, the shuttles have even had leashed ferrets as regular riders.

Nantucket Parks and Recreation Department, 508-228-7213, nantucket-ma.gov; Nantucket Regional Transit Authority, shuttle nantucket.com, 508-228-7025.

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IT'S A DOG'S LIFE: We're just along for the walk. See who's wagging whom in a gallery at boston.com/travel.

THE LIST

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beaches